

SCOTTSDALE PATH AND TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT



To: Path and Trails Subcommittee
From: Greg Davies, Senior Transportation Planner
Subject: Non-Preserve Trail Program and Trail Inventory Projects
Meeting Date: October 6, 2020

ITEM IN BRIEF

Action: Presentation and discussion

Purpose:

Provide an overview of the Non-Preserve Trail Program and the past and upcoming trail inventory projects.

Background:

Trails planning in the city of Scottsdale began in 1965 when the Scottsdale Town Enrichment Program initiated the Indian Bend Wash project and connections. In 1971, the Parks and Recreation Department confirmed the public's interest in cycling and a path system. Then in 1984 design procedures and criteria were developed for bikeways and horse trails. The 1994 Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan further defined bicycle and pedestrian systems. And in 2001, Scottsdale adopted the General Plan which included a trails component in the Open Space and Recreation Element.

In 2004, Scottsdale adopted a Trails Master Plan. This plan included non-preserve trails as well as McDowell Sonoran Preserve trails. In 2007, the responsibility for non-preserve trails was delegated to Transportation, and trails within the McDowell Sonoran Preserve became the responsibility of Community Services.

In 2008, Scottsdale City Council formed an Ad Hoc Citizens Trails Task Force to effectively implement the Non-Preserve Trail Program.

The Ad Hoc Trails Task Force recommended the following policies which were accepted by Scottsdale City Council on April 28, 2009.

Policy 1: Trail access

- purchase public access if necessary
- align trails where access is available
- use condemnation as last resort

Policy 2: Trail obstruction where access exists

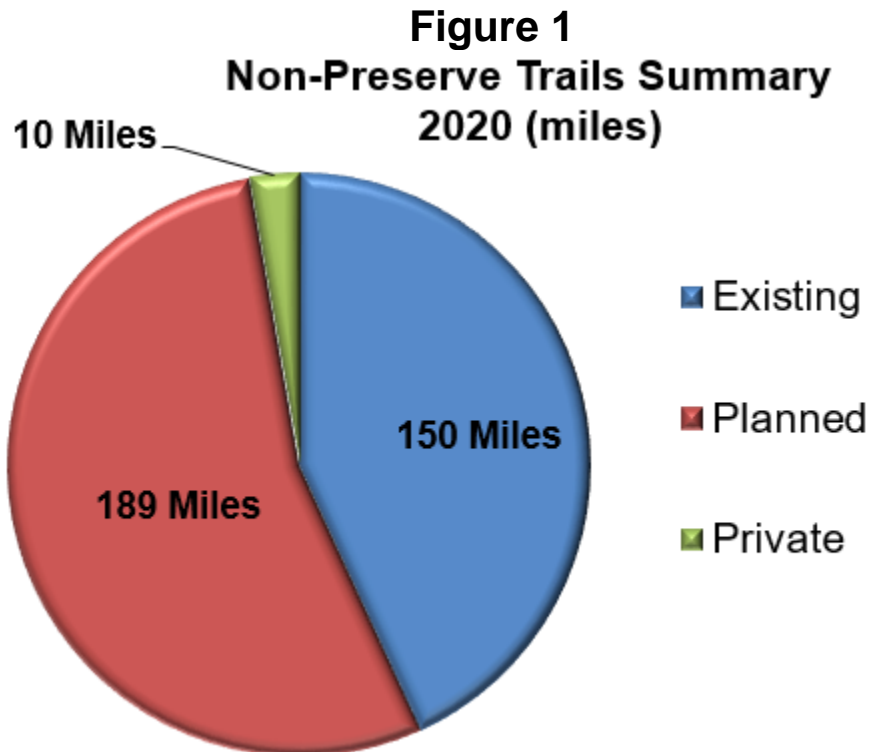
- property owner responsible for obstruction removal
- property owner responsible for trail realignment if refusal to remove obstruction

Policy 3: New trails crossing undeveloped land

- look first for existing rights of way along parcel boundaries to build temporary trail
- temporary trail does not release developer from dedicating easement
- if temporary trail is not an option – then city should acquire access rights
- recommended denial of request for abandonment if rights of way can be used for trails

In 2016, Scottsdale City Council adopted the Transportation Master Plan which included all previous trail plans excluding the McDowell Sonoran Preserve trail network.

Today, the trail network outside of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve includes 150 miles of existing trails and 189 miles of planned trails (see Figure 1). Scottsdale has one of the most robust trail systems in the region with over 380 miles of existing unpaved trails including the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

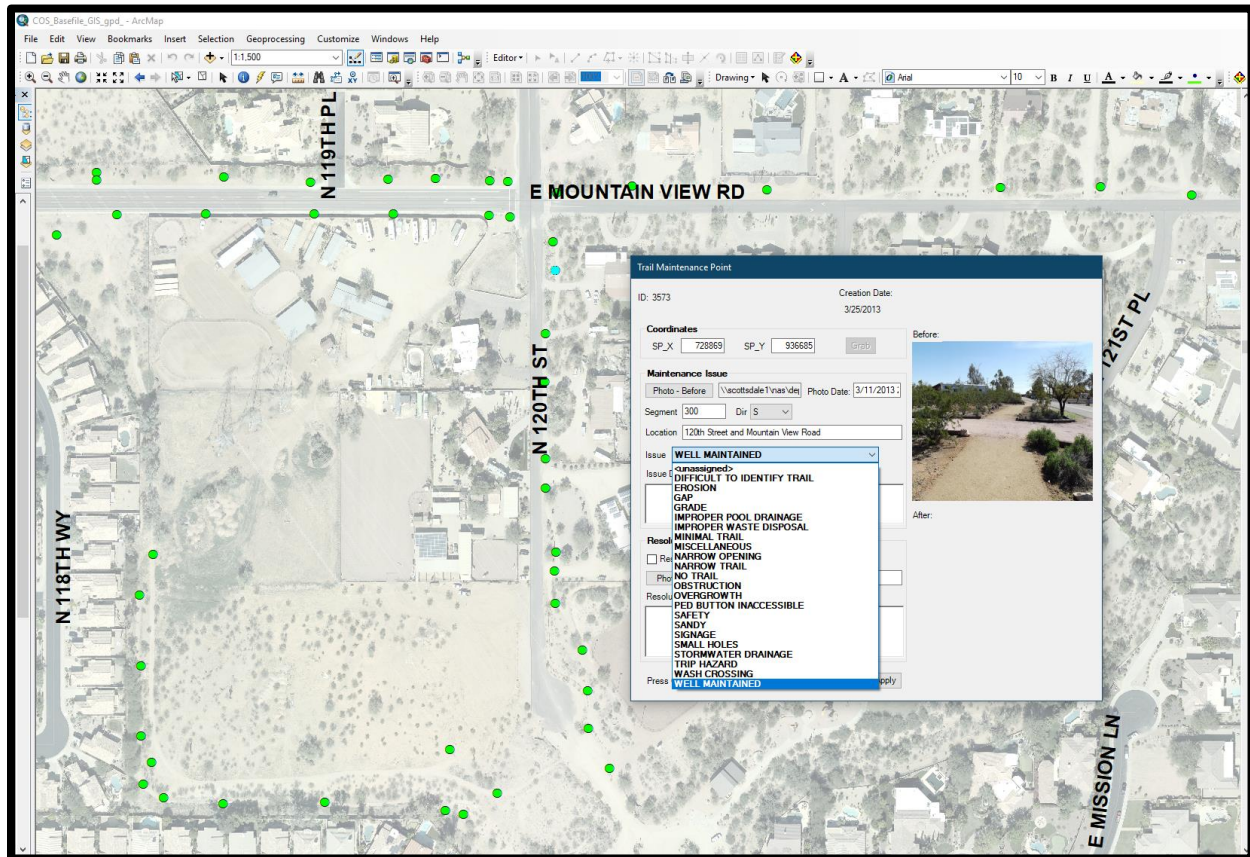


2011 - 2012 Trail Inventory:

In December 2011, the Transportation Department initiated a trail inventory which was conducted by transportation planning interns. The inventory process included field walking the existing trail using an aerial map and taking a photo approximately every 100 feet. Attribute data for the location was notated and the photo location was marked on the aerial photo. This information was then entered into a geographic information system (see Figure 2).

The 2011-2012 inventory took approximately five months to complete. This inventory essentially was an assessment of the existing Non-Preserve Trail system after the delegation of system responsibility to Transportation in 2007. The most important information gathered from the inventory was the trail location and condition. Unbeknownst to many landowners, the maintenance responsibility of a trail is the responsibility of the landowner. This is applicable for a trail that is adjacent to a parcel of property or contained with an easement on the property per Scottsdale Municipal Code 47-47 (F)(5). Transportation does have the right to clear, improve or reconstruct a trail with capital funding.

Figure 2 2011-2012 Trail Inventory



2020 Trail Inventory:

Over the last eight years approximately 10 miles of trails have been added to the system. Of these 10 miles of trails, Transportation has constructed approximately 1.5 miles with capital funds. The remaining trail mileage was built through development stipulations. Since a significant amount of time has passed since the last inventory and the system continues to grow, Transportation will initiate a second trails inventory in late 2020. The 2020 trail inventory will be conducted utilizing the cloud interface and collecting spatial data via an ipad.

Next Steps:

- Field test ipad units using spatial data collection software
- Begin second trail inventory in October/November 2020 timeframe

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